

Presbyterian Church  
New Bern  
Craven County  
North Carolina

HABS No. 12-F1

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N.C.

25- NEBER

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REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS  
PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORIC AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of North Carolina

Historic American Buildings Survey

Prepared at Washington Office  
for Southeast Unit

HABS  
N.C.

25-NEBER

1.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
New Bern, Craven County, North CarolinaOwner: Presbyterian ChurchDate of erection: 1819-22Present condition: GoodArchitect or builder:

Said to have been Uriah Sandy, about whom little seems to be known. The architectural characteristics would indicate that he was a Connecticut man, but a slave-holder of the same name was listed in the Westmoreland County records (Virginia) in 1782. The peculiarity of the name might indicate that they refer to the same person. (See Swem's Index of Virginia History.)

Description:

Frame; two stories; tower and steeple on front elevation. Body of church has gabled roof with two tiers of windows, the lower 12/12-light and square-head, the upper arched. The center of the front elevation is covered by an Ionic portico of three bays, protecting three doors to the church; center is arched, side square-head. The steeple rises in three octagonal stages with very little applied trim.

Interior: There is an entrance hall extending the breadth of the building with spiral stairs at either end. The chancel end of the auditorium is toward the entrance hall with the organ in a gallery at the further end. This gallery is curved and connects with the main side galleries, which are supported on slender turned columns, and similar columns support the ceiling, which is flat over the galleries and arch-vaulted over the nave. Until recently a Victorian pulpit superseded the old, but the latter has now been reinstated. In doing so, however, the curved recess behind the pulpit has been eliminated and arched trim applied to the wall.

Author: THWApproved: 9/11/40

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
NEW BERN, N. C.

The Presbyterian Church of New Bern was built in 1819 by Uriah Sandy. During the Civil War the building was used as a hospital for Federal troops under General Burnside.

Early prints of the church show urns on the four corners of each set-back of the tower, but they have long since disappeared, and there is no other record of them. Shortly after the Civil War the present pulpit was constructed with the original beautifully carved pulpit reversed and made the base of the present plaster shell. No other alterations were made until about 1892, when the present rear entrance was added, and the original pews <sup>were</sup> removed and replaced by the conventional type. The original pew-system had straight seats under and in the balcony and the old-time box pews in the center.

Mr. C. L. Ives, of New Bern, chairman of the Board of Deacons, is our authority for this information.

*R. B. Eaton*  
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Approved-

*M. R. Marsh*  
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*Reviewed 1936, H.C.F.*